

MINUTES
MARION CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2014
6:00 P.M.

A special meeting was held by City Council on Wednesday, June 25, 2014 at 6:00 p.m., over which Mayor Bobby L. Davis presided. Council members, Michael Baker, Ralph Atkinson, Odessa Gregg, Emerson Hunt and Joseph Frazier were present. Council member Ronald Atkinson was not in attendance. Also present were City Administrator Alan Ammons, City Treasurer Patricia Brown and City Clerk Pam Jones.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order and Councilman Gregg gave the opening prayer.

Councilman Emerson Hunt made a motion to allow the public to purchase the City flag at a cost of \$70--\$75 (which is the cost to the City per flag), seconded by Councilman Michael Baker; motion carried.

Council was presented with a Capital Budget Ordinance and a list of Capital Budget Items for their perusal. Mr. Ammons stated that several funding options were checked on, the first being the lease purchase option; there is a 5 year plan and a 7 year plan that would not go against our bond indebtedness. Another option for Council to pick is if we want to fund a portion of these projects from our fund balance and then lease purchasing the rest of the balance. The Treasurer and I feel comfortable with using about \$100,000 of the fund balance and financing the remainder for the 7 year plan which would put our payments about \$60,000 to \$65,000 a year. We didn't really go the route of the general obligation bond because we get into a 7 - 9% fee for the bond attorney, which would drive the cost up. Mayor Davis commented that police cars will be approximately \$144,500, replacement vehicles for the Fire Department would \$31,300 and the Sanitation Department would be \$318,900 and the list shows what type of vehicles are needed for each department. We have been told the street sweeper could go out at any time and that it has been patched as much as it can be (\$157,600). The backhoe is in the same shape and also old and worn out (\$75,000) We talked about a grabber, but the two dump trucks (\$84,000) will save about \$45,000 - \$50,000. Including taxes, lights and radios, etc. (as needed per vehicle) the total amount is \$494,700. Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to take this presentation home and think about it. No second was offered. Councilman Joseph Frazier made a motion to move forward with the recommendation from the Mayor, Administrator, and Treasurer to get the necessary equipment for the Police Department, Fire Department and Sanitation Department in the amount of \$494,700, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker. Councilman Hunt asked if it would be more advantageous to lease these vehicles rather than purchase, knowing that after 2 or 3 years the police cars are pretty much shot. Mr. Ammons responded that he is not aware of anyone in South Carolina who will do a lease on a police car, we're doing a lease purchase which is the same thing as buying, we're just not going through a general obligation bond. These cars will have 3 year,

36,000 mile warranty, bumper to bumper and also a 5 year, 60,000 mile power train, motor, transmission, rear end warranty. Most of our cars get good service until about 150,000 miles. The cars purchased about 6 years ago from the Highway Patrol now have 150,000 – 160,000 miles. Mayor Davis responded to Councilman Hunt that there were some other things they could discuss later that could help save some mileage on the police cars. Motion carried **5-1** with Councilman Ralph Atkinson voting no. Mr. Ammons stated that there are two viable options, for the City; the first option is using \$100,000 from the fund balance borrowing \$400,000 on the seven year plan which will be a \$60,000 - \$65,000 per year payment. The other option is to borrow the entire \$494,700 and would us \$75,000- \$80,000 per year payment. MR. Ammons commented that it would be a year before the actual purchase are made. There will be no payments in this fiscal year, but in the 2015-16 budget. Councilman Emerson Hunt made a motion to accept the first option of using \$100,000 from the fund balance and the \$60,000 - \$65,000 payment per year (for 7 years) to ensure we get the needed vehicles, Councilman Michael Baker seconded the motion. Councilman Ralph Atkinson stated that to balance this year's budget, we are projecting \$325,000 from the fund balance, \$60,000+ to make this payment, to which Mr. Ammons responded that the \$65,000 payment was two budgets away. Councilman Atkinson wondered where that \$65,000 repayment was going to come from. Mr. Ammons responded that hopefully from adjustments in police fines, if the fines are where they should be it would more than cover it. Councilman Atkinson commented that he doesn't know if we are going to raise taxes or not raise taxes or take it from the fund balance. Councilman Atkinson would like to know where the money is going to come from to pay the debt back and, if it's coming out of the fund balance it doesn't make fiscally responsible sense to borrow the money and pay higher than you're going to draw. Mayor Davis commented that nothing may be spent out of the fund balance at all because we know we have revenue coming in that we don't have now from businesses that are locating in the City and we also have property taxes on a business that we will be collecting next year. We feel we will have the \$60,000 to pay year after next and we are not going to do anything to jeopardize the City of Marion. Motion Carried **6 -1** with Councilman Ralph Atkinson voting **no**.

Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to accept 1st Reading ***of Ordinance 14-06, An Ordinance to Approve 2014-15 Capital Budget***, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier. Motion carried **6-1** with Councilman Ralph Atkinson voting **no**.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Joseph Frazer made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel matters in the Police Department and personnel matters in Municipal Court, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker; motion carried. Upon returning from Executive Session, Mayor Davis stated that no action was taken. Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to enter regular session, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier; motion carried.

Regarding the Police Department Organization Chart, no action was taken.

Mr. Ammons stated that ***Ordinance 14-07, An Ordinance to Create Office of Ministerial Recorder***, will create the position of ministerial recorder, which will eliminate the

part-time judge position and will be a person already employed in the Municipal Court Department.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to accept 1st reading of ***Ordinance 14-07, An Ordinance to Create Office of Ministerial Recorder***, as presented to Council, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier. Motion carried.

Councilman Emerson Hunt made a motion to increase the base pay of the Ministerial Recorder by \$2,000, to take effect after the 2nd Reading and after the swearing in of the Ministerial Recorder; seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier; motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier; motion carried.

Mayor Bobby L. Davis

City Clerk Pam Jones
Taped June 25, 2014